

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1776.

LONDON, April 16.

THOUGH it may seem to be a paradox, yet there is nothing more true, than that the generality of officers are the worst judges of the policy of war. In all ages and countries, when similar expeditions to the present American had one have been proposed by ignorant and tyrannical ministers, they have always been approved of and represented as very easy to make, and sure to be crowned with success by most of the military men, as they think their honour is concerned in greedily embracing every opportunity to fight, right or wrong, that they may show their prowess, and above all get preferred.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, May 4.

The following is the message from his majesty to the house of commons, delivered by lord North on Thursday.

GEORGE R.

"HIS majesty, relying on the experience, zeal and affection of his faithful commons, and considering that, during the present troubles in North-America, emergencies may arise, which may be of the utmost importance, and be attended with the most dangerous consequences, if proper means should not be immediately applied to prevent or defeat them; is desirous that this house will enable him to defray any extraordinary expenses incurred, or to be incurred, on account of military services for the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, and as the exigencies of affairs may require.—And his majesty having judged it expedient to issue his proclamation, in pursuance of an act of parliament, passed in the fourteenth year of his reign, for calling in the remainder of the deficient gold coin, doubts not but that his faithful commons will enable him to make good the charges which shall be incurred in this service, and which cannot at this time be ascertained."

G. R.

Never was England in such a situation as the present, as the following anecdote, which may be depended upon, doth certify. There is not a six pounder fit for service in this kingdom, and very few of any other weight. Now if 40,000 French or Spaniards should land on our coast—how could we repel them?

However, to remedy this as fast as possible, the board of ordnance have ordered Verbruggen, the founder at Woolwich, to get ready, with all possible dispatch, another boring machine, in which case he will be able to supply government with what number of guns they please. Lord Townsend is amazingly active in the station of master general—visits Woolwich almost every week—and carefully inspects the minutest circumstance.

Extract of a letter from Spithead, May 2.

"It is expected we shall sail to-morrow for Boston, under the command of commodore William Hotham, who is to hoist his broad pendant on board of the Preston, a 50 gun ship. The ships which go under his command are the Jersey hospital ship; the Emerald, of 32 guns; the Brune, of 32 guns; the Strombolo fire-ship, the Carcase bomb, and all the transports which are ready. There are upwards of one hundred sail of transports now here, all of which have foreign troops on board. We have on board five small casks, and 30 chests of Spanish dollars, amounting to 35,000l. for paying the marine troops at Boston.

Upon an average, the ships of war now equipping for America have not more than six seamen to ninety others in their complements.

May 4. The charge made by the lord mayor against lord North and the lords of the admiralty, for licensing ships to trade to any part of America, is no less than the breach of an act of parliament; it is in its nature a very important and a very serious charge; it is a breach of the laws in the most glaring and audacious manner; it is encouraging the most illicit practices, under a most violent, abandoned, and daring contempt of the constitution of this country, and the three great branches of the legislature.

The house began to debate on this subject about half past four, which continued till nine, without calling in a witness. The debates were expected to last long, and that the gentlemen of the custom-house would be ordered to attend again this day.

As the gallery doors were locked and no person whatever admitted, all we can say is, that notwithstanding the flagrancy of this act, it is not to be expected, from the complexion of the members, that such designing and detestable practices should meet with an adequate punishment.

PORTSMOUTH, July 29.

Last Monday the first regiment of militia in this colony, pursuant to orders from lieutenant-col. Joshua Wentworth, made a genteel appearance upon the plains in this town; almost every person upon the alarm-list indiscriminately appeared in the ranks to stand a chance of draughting 115 men for the Canada reinforcement, it found necessary; but the alacrity with which the men enlisted prevented any disagreeable impressions: such an ardour was discoverable in all ranks, by their encouragement, that they seemed to emulate with each other who should most promote the service.

NEWPORT, July 22.

Yesterday arrived here, from a cruise of about a month, the brig Andrew Doria, capt. Biddle, who about ten days before took the ship Nathaniel and Elizabeth, capt. Hoar, from Jamaica to London, loaded

with 300 hogheads of sugar, 200 hogheads of rum, &c. Capt. Philip Brown, of this place, was put in prize-master, and ordered to the first port he could make. Capt. Biddle saw two frigates under an easy sail near Block-island yesterday morning.

Yesterday in the afternoon, lieutenant Capt. of the Meria ship of war (which lay a little without the harbour) came in a barge with a flag to this town; the general assembly being then sitting, he was conducted to the State-house, where he delivered a letter to his honour governor Cooke, from Richard Mowat Howe.

NEW LONDON.

A succinct account of the CONSTITUTION of the Free and Independent State of CONNECTICUT.

CONNECTICUT is divided into six counties, and each county is divided into a number of towns. Each town has a right to send two representatives to the general court, or assembly. The general court consists of two branches, called the upper and lower house. The upper house is composed of the governor, deputy-governor, and twelve assistants or councillors; and the lower house, of the representatives of the several towns. This court has sole power to make and repeal laws, grant levies, dispose of lands, belonging to the state, to particular towns, and persons; to erect and file judicatories and officers, as they shall see necessary for the good government of the people, and also call to account any court, magistrate, or other officer, for any misdemeanor or mal-administration, and for just cause may fine, displace, or remove them, or deal otherwise, as the nature of the case shall require; and deal and act in any other matter that concerns the good of the state, except the election of governor, deputy-governor, assistants, treasurer, and secretary, which shall be done by the freemen at the yearly court of election, unless there be any vacancy, by reason of death or other cause, after the election, which may be filled up by the general court. This court has power also, for reasons satisfactory to them, to grant suspension, release, and bail delivery, upon reprieve in capital and criminal cases. The general court has two stated sessions annually, on the second Thursdays of May and October. The governor, or in his absence the deputy-governor, may call the assembly, on special emergencies, to meet at any other time. The governor, deputy-governor, assistants, and secretary, are annually elected on the second Thursday in May. The representatives are newly chosen for each stated session. The judges and justices are annually appointed by the general court; the same persons are commonly re-appointed from time to time, during their capacity to serve, unless guilty of misbehaviour. The sheriffs are appointed by the governor and council, without limitation of time, but may be superseded by the authority that appoints them. The governor for the time being is captain-general of the militia; the deputy-governor, lieutenant-general; the other general officers and the field-officers are appointed by the general court, and commissioned by the governor. The captains and subalterns are chosen by vote of the company and householders living within the limits of the company, the persons so chosen must be approved by the general court, and commissioned by the governor, before they have power to execute their offices. All the military officers hold their offices during the pleasure of the assembly, nor can they resign their commissions without leave of the captain-general, under penalty of doing duty in the ranks as private soldiers.

The mode of electing the governor, deputy-governor, assistants, treasurer and secretary is, that the freemen in the several towns meet on the Monday next after the first Tuesday in April annually (being the day appointed by law for that purpose, and for choosing representatives) and give in their votes for the persons they choose for said offices respectively, with their names written on a piece of paper, which votes are received and sealed up by a constable in the freemen's meeting; the votes for each of said officers in a different paper, writing on the outside the name of the town, and the office for which the votes were given in, which are sent by the representatives to the general court, to be held on the second Thursday of May next ensuing; at which time, after the house of representatives have chosen a speaker and clerk, a committee is chosen of members of both houses to sort and count the votes, and declare the names of the persons chosen to said offices. Any freeman, qualified to vote for representatives, &c. may be elected to any office in the government. In choosing assistants, twenty persons are nominated by the votes of the freemen given in at their meeting for choosing representatives in September annually, and sealed up and sent to the general court in October then next, which are counted by a committee of both houses, and the twenty persons who have the greatest number of votes stand in nomination, out of which number twelve are to be chosen assistants by the freemen, the next April, in manner afore described.

The qualifications requisite to entitle a person to vote in election of the officers in government are, maturity in years, quiet and peaceable behaviour, a civil conversation, and forty shillings freehold, or forty pounds personal estate, in the list of rateable estate; if the electors of the town certify a person qualified in those respects, he is admitted a freeman, on his taking an oath of fidelity to the state. If he names of all that are thus admitted, are enrolled in the town-clerk's office, and continue freemen during life, unless disfranchised by a sentence of the superior court, on conviction of misdemeanor.

The governor in the upper house, and the speaker in the lower house of assembly, have a casting vote when

the other members are equally divided in opinion on any question.

There is in this state a superior court, consisting of one chief judge and four other judges, which has authority in all criminal cases extending to life, limb, and banishment, and to hear and determine all civil actions brought by appeal from the county courts, or on writs of error. This court also hath authority in all matters of divorce. There are two stated sessions of the superior court in each county annually.

There are also county courts held in the several counties, consisting of one judge and four justices of the quorum, who have jurisdiction in all criminal causes arising within their respective counties, where the punishment does not extend to life, limb, or banishment. The county courts also have original jurisdiction in all civil actions wherein the demand exceeds forty shillings.

The superior and county courts try matters of fact by a jury, according to the course of the common law.

Justices of the peace have authority to hear, and determine, civil actions, where the demand does not exceed forty shillings. They also have authority in some cases of a criminal nature, punishable by fine, not exceeding forty shillings, or whipping, not exceeding ten stripes, or sitting in the stocks. This state is also divided into a number of probate districts, less than counties; in each of which is appointed a judge for the probate of wills, granting administration on intestate estates, appointing guardians for minors, ordering distribution of intestate estates, &c. An appeal lies from any decree of this court to the superior court. The superior, county, and probate courts appoint their respective clerks.

The general court has, till very lately, been the only court of chancery in this state; by a late temporary law, the county courts determine matters of equity from five pounds to one hundred pounds value.

The superior court, from one hundred to four hundred pounds value, and the general court all cases exceeding four hundred pounds value.

All attorneys at law are admitted and sworn by the county courts; there is no attorney-general, but there used to be one king's attorney in each county, but since the king has abdicated the government, they are now attorneys to the governor and company.

NEW-YORK, July 29.

The 4th man in the counties of King's, Queen's and Suffolk, on Long-Island, and Westchester, Dutchess, Orange and Ulster, were last week ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning; indeed many of them are gone to their proper stations already.

An old gentleman between 60 and 70, now does duty in the militia near Newark, in New-Jersey, is the father of about 15 children now alive, nine of which are in the continental army, from captains to privates.

The small pox is now so brief in and about Boston, that there are no less than 10,000 persons in and near that place down with that disorder; to prevent the spreading of which, no more news-papers will be printed there for some time; but the post has favoured us with the following agreeable advices:

That a ship from Ireland, with 1,700 barrels of pork, 1,400 firkins of butter, 100 casks of oats, and 100 casks of oatmeal, was taken and carried into Boston last week.

A letter of marque from Salem took a sloop and ship from Jamaica; the sloop loaded with dry goods and salt, bound for Halifax; the ship bound to Europe with 370 hogheads of sugar, 140 puncheons of rum, 55 pipes of Madeira wine, 27 cannon, 9 and 6 pounders, and a large quantity of wrought plate. They were carried into Sheepsfoot.

PHILADELPHIA.

The following is an exact state of what passed at the interview between his excellency general Washington and colonel Patterson, adjutant general of the army under general Howe, July 20, 1776.

AFTER usual compliments, in which, as well as through the whole conversation, col. Patterson addressed general Washington by the title of excellency, col. Patterson entered upon the business by saying, that gen. Howe much regretted the difficulties which had arisen respecting the address of the letters to gen. Washington; that it was deemed consistent with propriety, and founded upon precedents of the like nature, by ambassadors and plenipotentiaries, where disputes or difficulties of rank had arisen; that gen. Washington might recollect he had, last summer, addressed a letter to gen. Howe. To the hon. William Howe, Esq; that lord Howe and gen. Howe did not mean to derogate from the respect or rank of gen. Washington; that they held his person and character in the highest esteem; that the direction, with the addition of &c. &c. implied every thing that ought to follow. He then produced a letter, which he did not directly offer to gen. Washington, but observed that it was the same letter which had been sent, and laid it on the table, with a superscription to George Washington, &c. &c. &c. The general declined the letter, and said, that a letter directed to a person in a public character, should have some description or indication of it, otherwise it would appear a mere private letter; that it was true the &c. &c. implied every thing, and they also implied any thing; that the letter to gen. Howe, alluded to, was an answer to one received under a like address from him, which the officer on duty having taken, he did not think proper to return, but answered it in the same mode of address; that he should absolutely decline any letter directed to him as a

Col. Patterson then said, that gen. Howe would not urge his delicacy farther, and repeated his assertions, that no failure of respect was intended. He then said, that he would endeavour, as well as he could, to recollect gen. Howe's sentiments on the letter and resolves of congress sent him a few days before, respecting the treatment of our prisoners in Canada. "That the affairs of Canada were in another department, not subject to the controul of gen. Howe, but that he and lord Howe utterly disapproved of every infringement on the rights of humanity." Col. Patterson then took a paper out of his pocket, and after looking it over, said he had expressed early the words. Gen. Washington then said, that he had also forwarded a copy of the resolves to gen. Burgoyne. To which col. Patterson replied, he did not doubt a proper attention would be paid to them, and that he (gen. Washington) was sensible that severity was not the characteristic of the British nation. Col. Patterson then proceeded to say he had it in charge to mention the case of gen. Prescott, who they were informed was treated with such rigour, that, under his age and infirmities, fatal consequences might be apprehended.

Gen. Washington replied, that gen. Prescott's treatment had not fallen under his notice; that all persons under his particular direction he had treated with kindness, and made their situation as easy and comfortable as possible; that he did not know where gen. Prescott was, but believed his treatment very different from their information. Gen. Washington then mentioned the case of col. Allen, and the officers who had been confined in Boston jail. As to the first, col. Patterson answered, that gen. Howe had no knowledge of it but by information from gen. Washington, and that the Canada department was not under his direction or controul; that as to the other prisoners at Boston, whenever the state of the army at Boston admitted it, they were treated with humanity and even indulgence; that he asserted this upon his honour, and should be happy in having an opportunity to prove it.

Gen. Washington then observed, that the conduct of several of the officers would well have warranted a different treatment from what they had received; some having refused to give any parole, and others having broke it when given, by escaping or endeavouring to do so. Col. Patterson answered, that as to the first, they misunderstood the matter very much, and seemed to have mistook the line of propriety exceedingly; and as to the latter, gen. Howe utterly disapproved and condemned their conduct. That if a remonstrance was made, such violations of good faith would be severely punished; but that he hoped gen. Washington was too just to draw public inferences from the misbehaviour of some private individuals; that bad men were to be found in every class and society; that such behaviour was considered as a dishonour to the British army.

Col. Patterson then proceeded to say, that the goodness and benevolence of the king had induced him to appoint lord Howe and gen. Howe his commissioners, to accommodate this unhappy dispute; that they had great powers, and would derive the greatest pleasure from effecting an accommodation; and that he (col. Patterson) wished to have this visit considered as making the first advances to this desirable object. General Washington replied, he was not vested with any powers on this subject, by those from whom he derived his authority and power. But from what had appeared of transpired on this head, lord Howe and gen. Howe were only to grant pardons; that those who had committed no fault wanted no pardon; that we were only defending what we deemed our indisputable right. Col. Patterson said, that would open a very wide field for argument. He then expressed his apprehensions that an adherence to forms was likely to obstruct business of the greatest moment and concern.

He then observed, that a proposal had been formerly made of exchanging governor Skene for Mr. Lovell; that he now had authority to accede to that proposal. Gen. Washington replied, that the proposition had been made by the direction of congress, and having been then rejected, he could not now renew the business, or give any answer, till he had previously communicated it to them.

Col. Patterson behaved with the greatest attention and politeness during the whole business, expressed strong acknowledgments that the usual ceremony of blinding his eyes had been dispensed with. At the breaking up of the conference, gen. Washington strongly invited him to partake of a small collation provided for him, which he politely declined, alleging his late breakfast, and an impatience to return to gen. Howe, though he had not executed his commission so amply as he wished. Finding he did not propose staying, he was introduced to the general officers, after which he took his leave, and was safely conducted to his own boat, which waited for him, about four miles distant from the city.

Made public by order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

July 26. On Friday evening arrived in this city from Canada, brigadier general Sullivan.

We hear that one of the continental frigates lately launched in this city is called the Delaware, and the other the Randolph, in honour of the late illustrious senator of that name.

The militia of this state continue to pass through this city daily in companies on their way to New-Jersey. It is thought that Pennsylvania will send not less than 8000 men to the assistance of our neighbours.

Yesterday brigadier general Ewing set off from this city to join the flying camp in New-Jersey.

August 3. The Congress privateer, capt. Craig, has taken and carried into a g-g-harbour, a brig from Nevis. This prize is said to be worth near twenty thousand pounds.

Extract of a letter from the camp at Perth-Amboy, New-Jersey, July 26, 1776.

"Yesterday afternoon we had a smart cannonading with the enemy, occasioned by four or five shallops coming down the river. The general directed a small battery mounting two iron four pounders to fire at them; this brought on a heavy firing from the enemy's battery, from an eminence that overlooked ours.

"Capt. Moulton, with his two field-pieces, was ordered to the shore, but being encamped at some distance, before he could come up the shallops had all nearly past, however, he began a well directed fire, and

one of them.

"When the vessels were passed, the firing ceased on both sides. We had the misfortune of losing one of the second battalion, and having another wounded. The young man's name who was killed is Owens, belonging to capt. Weed's company; he was shot right through the heart, the ball, a four pounder, entering his left side, and coming out of his breast; this morning he was buried with the honours of war. The other, who is wounded, is one Freeman, a sergeant in capt. Boyd's company; his wound is not dangerous, the ball having first taken the breast, and rebounding struck the upper part of his right thigh, but has not broken the bone. There was a horse killed which was standing in a waggon near the general's door. The enemy appear to have some very heavy field-pieces—they sent some 13 pound shot among us—it is surprising they did not do more execution, as there were so many of our people on the bank opposite to them without the least covering.

"The enemy appear to be very strong, and are constantly reinforcing as our troops come in. They are throwing up breast-works along the shore to prevent our landing."

Extract of a letter from New-York, July 29.

"Yesterday one of our galleys, mounting one 32 pounder in her bow, and the other a New-London galley, mounting two 12 pounders in her stern, and two 18 in her bow, went up the North-River to Spikendivle, or Kingsbridge-creek, with an intent to lay there till the ships come down the river.—Should that be the case, I make no doubt we shall be able to give a good account of them."

"This moment arrived a sloop, capt. Hawkins, from Rhode-island, which gives the disagreeable news of capt. Biddle's losing his prize, the ship Nathaniel and Elizabeth, capt. Hoar from Jamaica, with 300 hogheads of sugar and a 100 hogheads of rum, &c. at Fishers's Island reef, just entering the sound."

"Captain Hawkins says he saw the ship on the rocks last Friday, and saw one vessel take up an iron bound cask, which he took to be a hoghead of rum. There was a great number of people on board, and several vessels along side; and her masts were cut away. He does not know if any of the cargo is saved or not."

On Thursday last arrived here a vessel from Marseilles, with a large quantity of lead, powder, and arms.—By a gentleman who came in her we are informed, that the British parliament was prorogued on the 23d of May to some time in August; and that the Irish parliament had been dissolved.

An ORDINANCE to prevent counterfeiting the paper money issued by the honourable the continental congress, or by this or any other of the United American States.

WHEREAS great mischief may arise to the United States of America, and the property of the good people, inhabitants thereof, rendered precarious and insecure, by wicked and designing persons counterfeiting the paper bills of credit, issued by the honourable the continental congress, or by any of the United States of America, For remedy whereof; be it ordained and declared, and it is hereby ordained and declared, by the representatives of the freemen of the state of Pennsylvania, in general convention met, That if any person or persons shall presume to counterfeit any of the bills of credit issued, or hereafter to be issued, by the honourable the continental congress, or by and under any laws or resolves of the assembly of Pennsylvania, or by the legislatures, or assemblies, or conventions, of this or any of the United States, by printing or procuring the same to be printed, in the likeness of the said genuine bills of credit; and also if any person or persons shall forge the name or names of the signers of the true bills of credit, to such counterfeit bills, whether the counterfeiting of the said bills be done within this state or elsewhere, or shall utter such bills, knowing them to be counterfeited as aforesaid, and being thereof legally convicted by confession, standing mute, or by verdict of twelve men, in any court of oyer and terminer hereafter to be erected within this state, he, she, or they, shall suffer death. And the discoverer or informer shall have, as an encouragement for his or her discovery, the sum of fifty pounds, to be levied out of the goods or chattels, lands and tenements of the person convicted; and if no such goods or chattels, lands or tenements, can be found, a reward of twenty pounds shall be paid out of the public treasury. And if any person or persons shall counterfeit any of the said bills of credit, by altering the denomination of the said bills, with design to encrease the value of such bills, or shall utter such bills, knowing them to be so counterfeited or altered as aforesaid, and shall be thereof legally convicted in any court of record hereafter to be established in this state, such person or persons shall be sentenced to the pillory, and have both his or her ears cut off, and nailed to the pillory, and be publicly whipped on his or her bare back, with 31 lashes well laid on.

And moreover every such offender shall forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds, to be levied on his lands and tenements, goods and chattels, the one half to the use of the state, and the other half to the discoverer. And the offender shall pay the party double the value of the damages thereby sustained, together with the costs and charges of prosecution; and in case the offender hath not sufficient to satisfy the discoverer for his or her damages and charges, and pay the forfeiture aforesaid, in such case the offender shall, by order of the court where he or she shall be convicted, be sold for any term not exceeding seven years, for satisfaction; and in such case the treasurer of this state shall reward the discoverer of such insolvent offender to the value of five pounds out of the public monies in his hands. And every such counterfeit bill shall be delivered to the said treasurer to be burnt and destroyed.

And be it further ordained and declared, That the proper bills of credit issued by the honourable continental congress, or under the late laws, or by the resolves of the late assembly of Pennsylvania, shall be legal tender in all cases whatsoever within this state.

By order of convention,

GEORGE ROSS, vice-president.

Passed August 1, 1776.

Attest. JOHN MORRIS, jun. secretary.

In CONGRESS, July 22, 1776.

Resolved, That the several commanders in chief in each department be directed to exchange say officer in

of or under the rank of colonel, for col. Ethan Allen. Resolved, That the persons taken prisoners with col. Ethan Allen be put upon the same footing as those in the continental service, and exchanged accordingly, as opportunity presents.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

The representatives of the state of Rhode-island and Providence plantations have passed a resolve, That if any person within that state shall, under pretence of preaching or praying, or in any other way and manner whatever, acknowledge or declare their late king to be their rightful lord and sovereign, or shall pray for the success of his arms, or that he may vanquish or overcome all his enemies, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall therefore be presented by the grand jury of the county where the offence shall be committed, to the superior court of the same county; and upon conviction thereof, shall forfeit and pay, as a fine, to and for the use of that state, the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money, and pay all costs of prosecution; and shall stand committed to gaol until the same be satisfied.

Extract of a letter from the camp at Elizabeth-Town, July 25.

"Yesterday nine of our rifle-men crossed the river, in order to harrafs some regulars who were throwing up a kind of breast-work on a bridge, for their sentries, who kept firing on our men for some time, without doing any execution, till one of the brave fellows went within a few yards of the enemy, and desired them to surrender; at that instant he received a ball through his head, which killed him on the spot. The colonel sent over a flag of truce to the commanding officer on the island, desiring leave to bring off his man, which the officer very politely agreed to, and let him take man, rifle, and all his accoutrements. After talking a little, he enquired what news was stirring? On being told that gen. Clinton had been defeated at Carolina, he bore it very well; but on being acquainted that lord Dunmore had been driven from Gwyn's island, he looked very much confuted."

Another letter of the same date says, "This morning we had a deserter from the Asia, who says that 1000 highlanders have arrived within these few days, and that the enemy intend attacking New-York as soon as possible."

In the house of representatives for the counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex, upon Delaware, at New-castle, Saturday, July 27, 1776, p. m.

THE house taking into consideration the resolution of congress of the 15th of May last, for suppressing all authority derived from the crown of Great-Britain, and for establishing a government upon the authority of the people, and the resolution of this house of the 14th of June last, in consequence of the said resolution of congress, directing all persons holding offices civil or military to execute the same in the name of this government, until a new one should be formed, and also the declaration of the United States of America, absolving from all allegiance to the British crown, and dissolving all political connexion between them and Great-Britain, lately published and adopted by this government as one of these States, are of opinion that some speedy measures should be taken to form a regular mode of civil polity; and this house, not thinking themselves authorized by their constituents to execute this important work,

Do Resolve, That it be recommended to the good people of the several counties in this government, to choose a suitable number of deputies to meet in convention, there to ordain and declare the future form of government for this state.

Resolved also, That it is the opinion of this house, that the said convention consist of the number of thirty persons, that is to say, ten for the county of Newcastle, ten for the county of Kent, and ten for the county of Sussex; and that the freemen of the said counties respectively do meet on Monday the 19th day of August next, at the usual places of election for the county, and then and there proceed to elect the number of deputies aforesaid, according to the directions of the several laws of this government for regulating elections of the members of assembly, except as to the choice of inspectors, which shall be made on the morning of the day of election by the electors, inhabitants of the respective hundreds in each county.

Resolved, That every elector shall (if required by one or more of the judges of the election) take the following oath or affirmation, to wit: "I, A. B. will, to the utmost of my power, support and maintain the independence of this government, as declared by the honourable continental congress."

Resolved also, That it is the opinion of this house, that the deputies, when chosen as aforesaid, shall meet in convention in the town of Newcastle, on Tuesday the 27th day of the same month of August, and immediately proceed to form a government on the authority of the people of this state, in such sort as may be best adapted to their preservation and happiness.

Extract from the minutes.

Published by order,

JAMES BOOTH, clerk of assembly.

In committee of inspection and observation for the county of York, July 22.

Resolved, That in case Mr. James Rankin makes suitable concessions (as he proposes) and gives sufficient surety for his good behaviour in future, he shall be restored to his liberty, and the confidence of his countrymen.

"As I have, in several instances, injured the committee of York county, by sundry public misrepresentations, as well as by personal insults, thereby obstructing the public measures now so necessary for the safety of our country; but being convinced of the bad tendency of my past conduct, and desirous of being restored to a good understanding and friendship with my countrymen, I do thus publicly ask forgiveness of them, and do promise, on the faith and honour of an honest man, that I will in future pay due regard to the rules and regulations of the honourable continental congress, and behave, in all respects, as becomes a good citizen of the United States of America."

July 23, 1776.

JAMES RANKIN.